(c) by when a final decision is this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) There is a proposal to import Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) from Iran for the country's energy security in terms of which the Indian side will source 5 million metric tonne per annum (MMTPA) of LNG from Iran in lieu of the Iranian side offering one significant discovered oil field and one semi-discovered Iranian oil field to Indian public sector undertakings, subject to both sides mutually agreeing to the commercial terms and conditions of the arrangements. An MoU has already been signed between the Government of India and the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran in this regard. In addition, there is a proposal to import Natural Gas through pipeline from Iran.

Ashok Lahiri Committee Report

2025. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether the Ashok Lahiri Committee, which was reviewing the existing customs and excise duty structure on petro-products, has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the salient features of the recommendations and observations made in its report;

(c) if not, the reasons for delay; and

(d) by when the Committee is likely to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (d) The Advisory Group on rationalisation of tariff structure on crude petroleum and its products with Dr. Ashok Lahiri as Chairman, was constituted on September 27, 2004. The Group was required to submit its report by November 30, 2004. The Advisory Group has sought an extension for deliberating on the issues raised by various stakeholders, whom it had heard. As per the extended time frame, the Group is likely to submit its report by December 31,2004.